

Indiana House of Representatives

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KLINKER BILL TO REQUIRE DNA SAMPLES FROM FELONS PASSED BY HOUSE

INDIANAPOLIS -- House Bill 1241, legislation coauthored by State Rep. Sheila Klinker (D-Lafayette) that would require convicted felons to provide a DNA sample to the Department of Correction (DOC) or a sheriff, passed out of the House today by a vote of 96 - 0.

"I am pleased to be a co-sponsor of this bill," said Klinker.

Anyone convicted of a felony, conspiracy to commit a felony, or attempt to commit a felony will have to turn in a DNA sample.

The samples will be paid for through a processing fund, which will be created by House Bill 1241. However, for some criminal, infraction and ordinance violation actions, a \$1 fee for the DNA sample processing fee will be imposed.

All samples will be collected and preserved in a DNA database program.

When the law takes effect in 2006, there will be 10,876 felony offenders in the system who will need to have DNA collected and an additional 26,200 new offenders will be expected to enter the system each year.

"I think this is a very simple way to keep our communities safe," said Klinker. "By having a DNA database of all the felony offenders in Indiana, we will be able to quickly find out who committed a crime. We will also be able to more quickly exonerate innocent people. This DNA database has proven to be a very important tool to free several people on death row."

House Bill 1241 now moves to the Senate for further consideration.